MR. P. M. VARUGHESE: Was there a Gazette notification last month inviting applicants for the post?

DR. S. JOHN: Yes.

MR. P. M. VARUGHESE: Was the appointment made after the Gazette notification?

DR. S. JOHN: It was made long ago.

PRESIDENT There was an optician who was functioning in the ophthalmic hospital for years. Recently certain representations were made that it was becoming a kind of monopoly and they were asking that other people should also have a chance. Therefore a notification was published and we are waiting to see what response would come.

Doctors volunteering in the Medical department.

343 *MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of doctors volunteering in the Medical department;

(*b*) their names and qualifications:

(*c*) the number of years they are volunteering; and

(*d*) the amount spent as honorarium?

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) Three.

(*b*) 1. Mrs. E. Chandy, L. S. M. F.
2. Miss. A. Joseph, L. S. M. F.
3. Mrs. Thressiamma Verghese, L. M. P.

(*c*) Number 1 has been volunteering for more than two years and numbers 2 and 3 have not completed one year of volunteering;

(*d*) Volunteers are not paid any honorarium.

Construction of a bridge at Punnackal Chungom.

344 *MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the intense traffic across the Punnackal Chungom ferry (S. E. Boundary of Kottayam town); and

(*b*) whether they are aware that with the completion of Muttambalam paper mills the traffic over the ferry will become much more intense?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

Ranni-Valayath du bridge

345 *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when was the first estimate for constructing Ranni-Valayathodu bridge prepared and what was the estimated amount;

(*b*) when was the estimate prepared last and what was the amount;

(*c*) how many times the estimates were revised between the first estimate and the last estimate; and

(*d*) the reasons for putting off the construction of the bridge

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) In 1931 Rs. 6,200.

(*b*) In 1943. Rs. 20,000.

(*c*) The estimate was revised twice.

(*d*) Due to high cost and international situation.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The answer given is 'due to high cost and international situation.' The first estimate was prepared in 1931. May I know from the Chief Engineer what international situation existed in 1931.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not tell you; it is a very old story. It was first of all Rs. 6,200, as it because Rs. 13000 it was actually submitted to Government. It was revised for Rs. 20,000 and it was later again revised for Rs. 26,360. Tenders were called for recently and the contractor wants Rs. 38,000.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The answer given is 'the bridge was not undertaken due to international situation.' What was the situation existing then?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not tell you.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have, within recent months received such estimates that I have become suspicious of all estimates and therefore I decided that I would not accept any estimates prepared during the last three or four years, unless tehy are scrutinised by the present Chief Engineer. Therefore the whole question will have to be re-examined.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But why is it given 'due to International.....

PRESIDENT: Undoubtedly there has been this regrettable delay from 1931 to 1945. I admit there were no international situations then excepting a few peace conferences.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The war began only in 1939, so from 1931 to 1939 there was a great interval of several years...

PRESIDENT Yes, yes.

Construction of a bridge over Chengalom ferry.

346. ***MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a bridge at any time during the last 20 years in Chengalom thodu.;

(*b*) how long is it since the Government have begun to maintain a ferry there; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that Chengalom ferry is the shortest link to Olassa, Parippu and Aymanom?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes; till 1928.

(*b*) About 17 years.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. P. K. IDICULA: ഈ പാലം പണി തുടങ്ങാൻ ഇനിയും എത്രകാലം പണിവരുമെന്നു പറയാമോ?

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